

March 8, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Saints Who Were Chosen by God"

—Identity—

Text: 1 Peter 1:2

**1Peter 1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

**Grace and peace be yours in abundance.**

#### Introduction

My friends, have you ever been asked, "**What is a Christian like?**" What is your response? You may answer, "**Someone who goes to church, someone who was baptized or someone who believes in Christ**".

Of course, they all are good answers, but are they complete answers?

If you are asked, "What is an identity of a Christian?" how do you respond? Identity means who you are.

A Christian's **identity** means that they are exiles scattered throughout the earth, who have citizenship of heaven. As they have citizenship of heaven, they will go heaven in due course. There is no sin, conflict, misunderstanding, criticism, illness, worry or relationship troubles in heaven. It is **the kingdom of God** where God reigns. We will enter the blessed **kingdom of God**. They are Christians who believe in God and it refers to Christians' **identity**.

In fact, Peter preached joy of entering into the God's kingdom to Jewish Christians (in Diaspora) who scattered under the persecution. The epistle was written about 30 years after the Crucifixion of Christ. However, the joy to **enter into the kingdom of God** has never changed.

It is the key point of the epistle. We, Christians, are also chosen for the same purpose.

Let's study the following two points: ① **we are chosen by God** and ② **we live to do God's work that He gives**.

#### Main Points

## 1 . The People Who Were Chosen by God

**1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

### 1 ) The Evidence of God's Choice

It is written **"according to the foreknowledge of God the Father."** *Foreknowledge* refers to things such as a weather or earthquake forecast. It means to know beforehand.

The Epistle to the Romans records as below—

**8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.**

**8:30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

God called us, **who He foreknew**, for salvation. God knows everything.

The Bible records as below—

**Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

**Matthew 10:30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**

It is natural, because God Himself gave us our lives and supports them. Therefore, it is natural that God knows us.

Psalm records as below—

**Psalm 139:1 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.**

**139:2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

**139:3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.**

**139:4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

God has not chosen us without knowing us well, yes, He knows everything. He knows us completely. He knows how we are weak, how we are boasting and also what we need, and He knows our nature and our ability. He has chosen us. **The evidence of God's choice is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father."**

## 2) Fulfillment of God's Choice

**1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

It is written “**chosen … through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.**” The choice of God is fulfilled through **the sanctifying work of the Spirit**. We, those who were chosen, are molded through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

Specifically, the Holy Spirit makes us awake. We don't realize our sins easily. The Holy Spirit makes realize our sins. He makes us understand that we need to be forgiven our sins.

Therefore, Jesus said,

**Matthew 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**

The Holy Spirit makes us understand that Jesus' Crucifixion is the solution. He makes us look Jesus' cross and gives us joy that we were redeemed and forgiven.

The Holy Spirit leads us to realize this fact and makes us repent when we walk away from God or if we have pride or are boasting.

The Holy Spirit teaches us that God is with us and loves us. Like this, we are gradually sanctified.

**Sanctification** means to decide things to be godly. In short, it means to understand that my own things that we hold firmly belong to God and offer ourselves to God and live as His property.

### {Illustration}

**When I was 30-year-old, I received God's calling. The Holy Spirit encouraged me to give up what I have held. I decided to offer my life to God. Then, I started my ministry. Like this, the Holy Spirit urges and sanctifies us.**

**However, it doesn't mean only to become a pastor or a minister. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us so that we are able to get various jobs and live as God's servants, not live selfish lives. We are given peace, freedom and blessings of God.**

## 3) Purposes of God's Choice

Then, why God has chosen us and sanctified us?

What are God's purposes?

**1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

It is written **"have been chosen ...to be obedient to Jesus Christ."**

We have been chosen for the purpose **to be obedient to Jesus Christ.**

In fact, to believe is to become obedient.

**Romans 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to faith and obedience for his name's sake.**

To believe is to be obedient. If we only believe without obeying God, our faith probably becomes selfish so that we use God only for our profit. Such faith eventually reaches a dead end. We need to not only believe in the Lord but also follow Him. If we don't follow the Lord, there are many things that we don't understand.

God has chosen us and has purposes for us. Let's study the next point.

## **2. Those Who live for the Work that God Has Given**

**1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

Let's consider another important point.

The reason we have been chosen is to be sprinkled with Christ's blood.

The Epistle to the Hebrews records the following three points, **the Blood of Cleansing sin, the Blood of the Covenant and the Blood of Sanctification.**

### **1 ) The Blood of Cleansing Sin**

**Hebrews 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

**9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

We realize our sins by work of our conscience. We worry when we realize that we are sinners before God. However, we come to have peace (shalom), when we look up Christ on the cross, and we realize that we are forgiven by the blood of Jesus and cleansed.

**1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

It was not the time when we trusted in Christ, but also it means every day that we live as Christians. Looking up the cross, we realize our sins every day and give thanks for **purifying from them** by the blood of Christ

## **2) The Blood of the Covenant**

**Exodus 24:2 but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."**

**24:3 When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do."**

**24:4 Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.**

**24:5 Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD**

**24:6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar.**

**24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."**

**24:8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."**

The days of the Old Testament, the Israelites became the God's people by shedding the blood of animals. They could have the special relationship with God by the shedding blood.

## **3) The Blood of Purifying**

**Hebrews 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again, and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

**10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at**

the right hand of God,

**10:13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.**

**10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

**10:15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:**

**10:16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”**

**10:17 Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”**

**10:18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.**

**10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,**

**10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,**

**10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,**

**10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

We are also sprinkled by the blood of Christ and are used by God, because the precious blood of God’s Son was offered as the sacrifice.

These three points, cleansing, the covenant, purifying, have a close connection.

My friends, we are sprinkled with the blood of Christ, so we are purified and became God’s saints. We are able to walk with God (in God’s presence). On top of that, we are allowed to work for God.

A German word called *Beruf* means an occupation. It is a noun of a verb of *berufen* (God appoints, calls). The work that God appoints, calls and gives is *beruf* in German. It refers to a vocation in Japanese.

God gathered us, Christians those who believe in Christ, called out and made us belong to church. We became one of **the body of Christ** and made us join to His work. We also are people who were chosen by God. How happy we are!

We studied blessing of people who were chosen by God. Let’s conclude the message now.

## Conclusion

Title of the Message: "People Who Were Chosen by God"

—Identity—

**1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood.**

### **1. We are the God' chosen people.**

God has chosen us by knowing everything about us. The Holy Spirit speaks to our minds and makes them look at God. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and makes us follow Jesus Christ.

### **2. God the Creator has a personal relationship with us.**

The other point is that God has a personal relationship with each of us. How blessed we are! Let's give thanks to God for these blessings and rejoice over them.

\* God bless you!